



MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

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James Klahr
Executive Director

August 15, 2016

Sheriff Garry Bush
Ray County Sheriff's Office
200 W 9th St
Henrietta MO 64036

Re: File No. 16-0050-I

Dear Sheriff Bush:

The Missouri Ethics Commission considered the complaint filed against you and the Ray County Sheriff's Office at its August 12, 2016 meeting. The Commission reviewed the allegation that you inappropriately used public funds to promote his candidacy.

Staff review determined that you were a candidate for Ray County Sheriff in the August 2016 primary election. In May 2016, you participated in a parade which is part of an annual local festival in Richmond, the county seat. You drove your personal vehicle in the parade and there were marked and unmarked Ray County Sheriff's Office vehicles which drove in front of and behind your personal vehicle in the parade.

Section 115.646, RSMo, provides:

No contribution or expenditure of public funds shall be made directly by any officer, employee or agent of any political subdivision to advocate, support, or oppose any ballot measure or candidate for public office. This section shall not be construed to prohibit any public official of a political subdivision from making public appearances or from issuing press releases concerning any such ballot measure.

The review determined that the officers participating in the parade were not on duty that day, were participating to represent the Sheriff's department and were not campaigning for you.

From the facts presented, the Commission finds no reasonable grounds exist to support a violation of Chapter 115, RSMo, and is dismissing the complaint.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Klahr".

James Klahr
Executive Director